

Assumption of Our Lady

**Catholic Parishes of St Mary's, Bridgend, Our Lady Star of the Sea,
Porthcawl & St Joseph's of Arimathea, Kenfig Hill**

www.catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk

www.catholicchurchporthcawl.org.uk

Priests: Fr. Tim McGrath 01656 652034 & Fr. Silvio Briffa (retired)

Parish Deacons: Rev. Philip Manghan philip.manghan@rcadc.org

Rev. Robert Coyne Tel: 01656 783540 & Rev. Anthony Martin Tel: 01656 746648

Parish Administrator: Sarah Kearns Tel: 07534 095766 bridgend@rcadc.org

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff: 1177272

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mass Times</i>	<i>Mass Intentions</i>
Sat 14 th August	Mass 4.30 pm live stream only Vigil 6.00pm live stream & bookings	People of the Parish, our frontline & NHS workers Marguerite & Edward Ghanem (M Ghanem)
Sun 15 th August <i>Assumption of Our Lady</i>	Mass 10.00am (bookings only) Mass 11.00am live stream & bookings Mass 6.00pm live stream & bookings	People of the Parish, our frontline & NHS workers Soul of Cornelio Gomez (Bautista family) Mary Lindley (James Lindley)
Mon 16 th August	No Mass today	
Tues 17 th August	Our Lady Star of the Sea Mass 10.00am (bookings only)	Mervyn Cridland (M&G Rees)
Wed 18 th August	Mass 7.00pm live stream & open to parishioners	Robert Skinner (S Ryan) Ian James Thomas (Nora Thomas)
Thurs 19 th August	Mass 10.00am live stream only	In memory of Mr & Mrs Joseph Katie (M McAweney)
Fri 20 th August	Mass 10.00am live stream & open to parishioners	Nigel Waters RIP (N Kershaw) John Coll RIP (Manghan family)
Sat 21 st August	Mass 4.30 pm live stream only Vigil 6.00pm live stream & bookings	People of the Parish, our frontline & NHS workers Thanksgiving (M Harris)
Sun 22 nd August <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Mass 10.00am (bookings only) Mass 11.00am live stream & bookings Mass 6.00pm live stream & bookings	Thanksgiving Tony & Mary Quinn People of the Parish, our frontline & NHS workers

First Holy Communion Update. Please see website

<https://catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk/sacraments-and-formation/first-holy-communion/>

*Mass Intentions (St Mary's) there is currently a very, very long wait.
Please book 2 or even 3 months in advance. Many thanks.*

Prayers for the Sick - If you wish to have a person's name included on the list, then please ensure you have their permission and then contact the office on 07534 095766 or via emailing bridgend@rcadc.org
If you wish for a name to remain on the list after the end of August then please contact us.



**We pray for the sick and housebound of Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Joseph's of Arimathea & St Mary's.
We pray for our friends, relatives and those who have asked for our prayers.**

For July/ August: Chris Hall, Martin Ginnelly, Andrew Kerlake, Julia Margaret Lewis, Jack Michael Ley,
Brinley Morgan, Kevin Thomas & Helle
Elsie Freeth, Margaret Jarvis, Sam & Betty Henn & Maureen Pritchard.



"If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him." (John 14:23)



Congratulations to all our pupils, staff, governors and the head of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School on this year's GCSE and A Level results during what has been an extremely challenging year. Our prayers and thanks to all. God bless.



Eternal Rest

*Please keep all the families of all those recently deceased in your thoughts and prayers at this sad and difficult time.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

The Assumption of Our Lady, 15th August 2021

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour!'

The Feast of the Assumption marks the special place that Mary, chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, has in the life of the Church. The Roman Catholic Church today celebrates that she was taken, body and soul, into heaven, when her life on earth was over.

In the **First Reading**, a woman, taken to be either Mary or the Early Church, safely delivers her son into the world. Although threatened by the dragon (representing the power of evil), the child – the Messiah who would rule all the nations – was taken directly to God. The woman herself escaped to a place of safety.

The **Psalm** was originally a wedding song for the king of Judah.

It also points us towards Jesus the king and to Mary, his mother, as queen.

She is also a subject of the king, and a daughter.

St Paul tells the Corinthians that through Jesus's death and resurrection, all followers of Christ can look forward to a risen life with Jesus, and to a new fullness of life with God.

(Second Reading)

The **Gospel** tells of Mary's visitation to her sister, Elizabeth. In Mary's hymn of praise, the *Magnificat*, we see her faith and complete trust in God.

This week, we may like to ask Mary to intercede for us as we pray for the grace of knowing God's will for us, and to follow her example in always saying an unconditional 'yes'. We also offer thanks for all the great things the Almighty has done for us.

On Saturday 7th August Wales moved to alert level 0 meaning:

- the removal of legal restrictions on the number of people who can meet indoors, including in private homes, public places or at events
- face coverings will **remain a legal requirement indoors**, with the exception of hospitality premises. (This will be kept under review).

Despite these changes there continues to be the encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the UK Prime Minister said recently "The pandemic is not over." Even with this minimal legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a **cautious approach to capacity and activity** within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We must remain mindful that Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. The Bishops of England, acknowledge that it is still not possible at present time for all the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday, thus fulfilling their duty to God.

Please be patient whilst we come to terms with the latest change to the restrictions. There is still much confusion as to what these changes mean for places of worship and clarity is still being sought.

There are also risk assessments to be studied and completed.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

Until there is clarity on how the new level affects places of worship, please continue to book for Mass on the weekend at St Mary's and for Masses at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

St Mary's is now open for Silent Prayer – 10am until 5pm Tuesday – Friday

You are welcome to call in any time, use the back 3 benches only and remember to stay 2 meters away from other attendees who are not members of your household. You are requested to sign in using the sheet available at the entrance to the church. Please sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the church and wear a face mask, although this may be removed if there is no one else in the church. There are materials to sanitise your seat before and after use at the rear of the church.

BOOKING FOR MASSES ON THE WEEKEND AT ST MARY'S AND AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea 10.00am on Tuesdays.

St Mary's will be open for Masses at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 10.00am on a Friday (there is now no need to book to attend these two weekday Masses, however you must sign the sheet at the entrance to the church).

St Mary's will be open for Masses at 6.00pm on Saturday, 11.00am on Sunday and 6.00pm on Sunday, please continue to book for these.

Obligation to attend Mass is still suspended. Even if you have had your vaccine to keep us all safe it is really important to abide by the social distancing rules that are still in force.

You must wear a mask.

Please read the reminder of the rules below. Many thanks for your support.

ATTENDING MASS

While restrictions are being lifted, we still need to consider the wellbeing of ourselves and our fellow parishioners, therefore:

- Please continue to book for Masses on the weekend at St Mary's or at Our Lady Star of the Sea. We do not want to turn people away at the door and it is still necessary to have details for Track and Trace.
- Only attend if you are symptom free.
- Please note that **Face Coverings MUST still be worn in Church**, except to receive Holy Communion.
- You should arrive between 15 and 5 minutes before the start time of Mass.
- Wait for a Steward to confirm your attendance and show you to your seat.
- Wait to be invited up to Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take communion, please come for a blessing to avoid others having to brush past you on returning to the pew.
- Continue to refrain from talking to your friends who are not part of your household.
- Congregational singing remains suspended.
- If you wish to give an offering at Mass, please do so in the basket at the back of the Church or in one of the wall boxes around the Church.
- Please note that the disabled toilet is open for parishioners.
- Once Mass has ended, please leave the Church promptly and disperse.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience or distress these regulations may cause. They are still a requirement to enable public worship to take place.

Donations to the Parish – Virgin Money Giving/ Standing Orders/ Gift Aid

You can continue to donate via Virgin Money Giving for those one-off donations however if you wish to make regular monthly donations to the life of the parish, please consider setting up a Standing Order. You can make your giving to the parish go even further by completing a gift aid declaration form (taxpayers only) meaning that for every £1 donated an extra 25p goes to the parish at no extra cost to you.

If you would like to set up a standing order or require a gift aid form, then call the office or e-mail

bridgend@rcadc.org Many thanks.